

'A Decade Of Advance' Is Pictured By Kelly

(The following 'keynote' address was delivered by Dr. Earl Kelly, executive secretary - treasurer of the Convention Board, before the State Convention on Tuesday night, Nov. 12.)

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost has come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth. (Acts 1:8).

Tonight Mississippi Baptists stand in the threshold of a wide open door.

If we walk through that door we can have an unprecedented decade of advance. God has given us the greatest mission in the world, the greatest message in the world, and the greatest Master in the world. Our mission has not changed since the day Paul stated to Agrippa that his mission was to "open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God." (Acts 16:18) Our Message is the gospel. Our Master is the risen Christ. In a world that is becoming pagan at the rate of 150,000,000 people per year, never

was there more urgent reason than today for us to fulfill our divine mission.

The call of the hour is for Mississippi Baptist churches to break free from parasitic entanglements of secondary issues which sap their strength and to get back to the unscinded, original mandate of Jesus our risen Master, which calls for world evangelization.

When we pause to reflect on it, that is how the whole adventurous story of the Christian movement began. Christ went up, the Holy Spirit came down,

and the Spirit amounted witnesses went out. Think of it! Twelve men unlettered, without college brogue or academic degrees or cultural finesse; twelve men without civic prestige or monetary reserves; twelve men apparently destitute of all those impressive accoutrements which are supposedly necessary to worldly conquest. Just twelve unprepossessing men went out to preach the new religion of a crucified Jesus who was stigmatized by his own nation as the blaspheming Nazarene. They went out against all the imperial might of ancient Rome, against all the myriad sophistries of intellectual Greece, and against all the stiff-necked bigotry of old-time Jewry. Their task seemed ludicrously impossible, and yet those twelve men and their growing band of helpers had not been on the job more than a few decades when there was an excited hue and cry, "These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also." (Acts 17:6)

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NEW STATE CONVENTION OFFICERS

New officers of the State Convention, elected last week, are, from left, Rev. Tommy Baddley, Brandon, associate recording secretary, (re-elected); Mose Dangerfield, Biloxi, second vice-president; Rev. James Richardson, Leland, president; Horace Kerr, Jackson, recording secretary (re-elected). Shown in inset is Marvin Graham, Mt. Olive, first vice-president.

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Supreme Court Will Not Hear N. Y. Baptist Church Dispute

By Stan Hasty

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U. S. Supreme Court let stand a New York ruling requiring a Baptist church in that state to exercise due process in seeking to dismiss its pastor.

The case, *Riley v. Howell*, was brought to the nation's highest court by members of the Bethesda Baptist Church, Port Chester, N. Y., who had unsuccessfully sought the removal of the church's pastor on grounds that "he no longer represented the religious views of the majority of the congregation."

In refusing to schedule the case for oral argument, the high court left intact a decision of the appellate division of the New York Supreme Court that the pastor was entitled to due process within the congregation before being forced to vacate his position.

The congregational dispute arose when a group disillusioned with the pastor sought to call a church business meeting to consider terminating the services of James H. Howell. Supporters of the pastor allegedly prevented his opponents from entering the church building to conduct the meeting.

A local court then scheduled a second meeting two weeks later to allow the congregation to decide the matter. Although a majority voted to remove the pastor, the church's constitution required a three-fourths vote. When the pastor refused to step down, his opponents brought suit to force his removal.

In their brief before the U. S. Supreme Court, the pastor's opponents argued that the state court had been guilty of "interpreting Baptist theology inconsistent with the congregation's interpretation."

The group argued further that the Baptist concept of local church independence is a "religious doctrine" which no court has a right to challenge. When a majority within a congregation acts, the argument continued, the will of the majority prevails.

Supporters of the pastor insisted that the congregation had standard procedures through which the dissidents should have gone in their effort. They key failure of the pastor's opponents, his supporters charged, was their attempt to call a business meeting on their own rather than seeking approval from the church's deacons. That action, they said, was "in contravention of Baptist custom, practice and tradition."

The supporters argued further that all persons officiating at the business meeting were opposed to the pastor. The meeting "was tantamount to a 'rump' session," they said.

The New York Supreme Court's appellate division held that the opponents of Howell must follow due process procedures in seeking his removal, and the U. S. Supreme Court's refusal to hear the case leaves that decision in force.

James Richardson Of Leland Is New Convention President

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

"I'm a balcony man! I guess that's why I was so surprised when they elected me."

It was your new convention president talking. We were in my Baptist Record office. It was last Thursday, the final morning of the annual state Baptist convention, and outside, the first really cold day of winter had arrived.



Rev. James Richardson, newly-elected president of the State Convention, is seen reading a report during a recent session.

"I don't mind the cold weather. I like it!" he declared. It struck me that Rev. James Richardson is not the type of man to be a complainer — about the weather or any of the other elements of daily living. The warmth of his friendly handshake was in sharp contrast to the temperature. When he came in out of the cold he brought with him an aura of enthusiasm, happiness, well-being. I thought, "Problems would not defeat this man. I believe he would relish a challenge."

If he's a balcony man, then I'd like to see what a front pew man would do! He's served on the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board eight years (two years at-large, and two or three years on the Board's Executive Committee). He was on the Home Mission Board for six years and has been on the Foreign Mission Board since last June. He was first vice-president of the MBCB the past year. Also he was a member of the Board of Trustees of Mississippi College but had to be replaced when he was elected convention president.

Between himself and Mississippi Baptists he feels a special tie of kinship. "I agree with Wilda Fancher's column in the Record this week," he said, "that the annual Baptist conventions are like Christmas, or like a homecoming, or a Christian family get-together. Even when the young men come now that I don't know, I still feel as if I knew them, too. I have a warm 'at home' feeling at a state Baptist convention. Like Charlie Weaver used to say on television, 'These are my people.'"

He hasn't missed a Mississippi Baptist Convention in the 21 years since he graduated from New Orleans Seminary. Last year, however, he only stayed for one day of the meeting,

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The Mississippi Baptist Convention Wednesday adopted a record high Cooperative Program budget of \$6,600,000 for 1975, and voted to "proceed immediately with the construction of Gulfshore Baptist Assembly."

The record high Cooperative Program budget is part of an overall mission budget of \$8,850,000 adopted for 1975.

This will include the \$6,600,000 for the Cooperative Program, \$1,400,000 for the Lottie Moon special offering for foreign missions, \$800,000 for the

Annie Armstrong special offering for home missions and the state mission offering of \$250,000.

The motion to "proceed immediately with the construction of Gulfshore Assembly" was a recommendation from the Convention Board.

The action authorizes construction of the assembly, located at Pass Christian, in accord with plans presented and approved by the 1972 Convention, to proceed immediately and that the Convention Board be authorized to take such action as may be necessary to accomplish the task, including permission to borrow money needed for this purpose and to pledge Convention Board property as security for such loan.

The convention voted in 1972 to rebuild Gulfshore and authorized the Convention Board to conduct a campaign to raise \$1,200,000 before construction could begin.

The report made by Dr. David Grant, Jackson, chairman of the campaign, revealed pledges from churches and individuals totaled \$1,052,686, and that money already received and other verbal and anticipated commitments made a total estimated potential of \$1,346,984.

The convention broke a long-standing tradition when it elected a clergy-

man as president instead of a layman. Elected was Rev. James Richardson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Leland, succeeding Dr. David Grant, Jackson, pastor of Broadmoor church. He was elected over two laymen who had been nominated.

Other officers elected were Marvin Graham, Mt. Olive, first vice-president; Mose Dangerfield, Biloxi, 2nd vice-president; Horace Kerr, Jackson, recording secretary, (re-elected), and Rev. Tommy Baddley, Brandon, associate recording secretary, (re-elected).

The report of the Committee on Constitution and By-laws was adopted, in

which references to "layman" in the constitution were changed to "layperson."

Also the president of the state WMU was made ex-officio member of the Convention Board, along with the president of the State Convention.

The convention adopted a recommendation of the Convention Board, enlarging the Executive Committee of the Board from nine to 15 members.

Constitutional changes requires two consecutive years favorable action so the above three changes would not take effect until next year.

Two women were elected as members.

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State Round-Up

Texas Urges Evangelism; Speaks On Charismatics

AMARILLO, Tex. (BP) — Traditional issues and sticky social questions occupied the attention of 2,500 messengers to the Baptist General Convention of Texas' annual meeting here.

Ringling calls for evangelism were coupled with sticky social issues: the growing Charismatics movement, the Equal Rights Amendment and Abortion.

Speakers, such as Texas convention president, Ralph Smith, pastor of

Hyde Park Baptist Church, Austin and James H. Landes, executive secretary of the 2-million member organization sounded the note of evangelism.

Smith called on Texas Baptists to win at least 100,000 converts to Christ during the coming church year, support the record - breaking budget and be missions minded.

In the resolutions area, messengers adopted a carefully worded statement on what charismatic movement which warns of potential dangers and called on individual Baptists "to act with great sensitivity lest the fabric of Christian fellowship be seriously impaired."

MISSOURI CONVENTION SEES ACCORD

JOPLIN, Mo. (BP) — Messengers to the 140th annual session of the Missouri Baptist Convention here bound up rather than salted the wounds of disunity inflicted by a protracted controversy over financial management procedures.

In a convention markedly different from the divisive 139th meeting last year in Columbia, Mo., 1,771 registered messengers overwhelmingly approved, without change, recommendations from the convention's structure and reorganization in committee.

"Joplin was a long way from Columbia in terms of the mood and temperament of messengers, who dealt with difficult and potentially divisive problems in a tolerant, sometimes light hearted manner," a convention spokesman said.

The committee, born out of turmoil over reported mismanagement and commingling of Missouri convention funds, brought six recommendations.

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Men's Prayer Breakfast Moves To Hilton After Heidelberg Sale

Mississippi Baptist's first men's prayer breakfast, Nov. 30 has been moved to the Jackson Hilton Hotel following the closing Nov. 14 of the Heidelberg Hotel, where it was first scheduled.

The Heidelberg had set up a firm commitment for the breakfast and was the only eating establishment in the city that could accommodate the 1,200 men who were expected to attend. With only a week's notice, however, the hotel's headquarters gave the order to close on November 14. This necessitated the move to the smaller quarters of the Jackson Hilton, where there will be accommodations for 525 men.

"Our hearts stuck in our throats when we read in the newspaper that the Heidelberg was closing," said Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. "We still hoped they would be able to handle our breakfast, but they could not," he added. "The program will be just as fine and just as inspiring as it would have been. We simply will not be able to have as many men in attendance."

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Violence Awareness Campaign Launched By Action Commission

A Violence Awareness Campaign was launched Tuesday night, Nov. 12, by the Christian Action Commission, Mississippi Baptist Convention, according to Dr. J. Clark Hensley, executive director.

Dr. Harry Hollis, Jr., Nashville,

Tenn., was the keynote speaker for the dinner meeting. Dr. Hollis is the author of a new Broadman press release, "The Shoot-em-up Society" and is director of Family and Special Moral Concerns, Christian Life Commission, Southern Baptist Convention.

Speaking on the subject "Violence in America," Dr. Hollis declared, "Violence is the new frontier of obscenity in our country. We are rapidly becoming a 'shoot-em-up society' in which violence is seen as a way to solve life's problems. Violence cannot be limited to its physical expression; it involves the exercise of force which causes damage to people, principles, property, or something of value."

"The exploitation of violence is utterly insane and stands clearly against the teachings of Jesus. Christians are called to share the good news about Jesus with people whose empty lives lead them to violence as a form of entertainment. The best alternative to violence as a way of life is commitment to Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, the Life."

"Christians are also called to oppose the exploitation of violence in the media. We can stop buying products from sponsors of TV shows which teach that violence is fun. We can stay away from movies that exploit violence. We can refuse to buy books and magazines which appeal to a lust for violence. We can seek to educate people about the dreadful dam-

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Protestant Giving Up 7.7% In Year—Less Than Inflation Rate

NEW YORK (RNS) — Giving to Protestant Churches rose 7.7 per cent in 1973 but the increase was not enough to offset the 9.6 per cent drop in the U. S. dollar's buying power.

Data from 41 denominations having 46 million members reveals total contributions of almost \$5 billion last year. The per capita rate of giving was an all-time high of \$107.78.

Financial reports from the 41 denominations were tabulated by the National Council of Churches. One conclusion drawn from the statistics is that the church, like many other U.

S. institutions, is falling behind in real income because of inflation.

Of the total given, \$4.19 billion was earmarked for congregational expenses. Funds for benevolences, chiefly mission purposes, reached a new high of \$800 million.

The new figures continue the trend of increased contributions despite decreasing membership in the so-called "mainline denominations."

The mainline churches with 27.8 million members — a membership total 1.8 per cent lower than 1972 — received 5.5 per cent more in contri-

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Baptist Men To Meet In Hong Kong

Kowloon City Baptist Church, Hong Kong, will be the site of the First World Baptist Men's Conference, Nov. 26-30, 1974. The Knowleem church with a seating capacity of 1,800, is the largest Chinese Baptist church in the world. The international men's conference is sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance.

High Court Declines To Hear Religious Broadcaster's Case

WASHINGTON (BP) — In a dispute between a religious broadcasting corporation and the Federal Communication Commission (FCC), the U. S. Supreme Court unanimously refused to decide whether the company has a constitutional right to employ only persons who hold to certain religious beliefs.

The practical effect of the high court's action in *King's Garden, Inc. v. FCC* was to let stand a lower court ruling that the FCC can require religious broadcasting companies to hire individuals without discriminating on religious grounds.

The FCC is a federal regulatory agency charged with exercising control over the nation's airwaves. An important part of its work involves

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Texas Convention Urges Evangelism

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New South Convention
Adopted Name Change
 (SARASOTA, N. Y. (BP)) — Registered messengers to the Baptist Convention of New York, meeting here, adopted a name change for the Southern Baptist Convention and urged that the small, five-year-old convention be granted representation on SBC committees, boards and agencies.

In other action, messengers re-elected Fred Rosner, pastor of Greenwich Baptist Church, Greenwich, Conn., as president; elected a woman, Mrs. DeLana Nyals of Glen Ridge, N. J., as a vice president; adopted a \$600,000 budget and honored their executive secretary - treasurer, Paul Jones, who will retire next March 1.

The resolution on the name change said the current SBC name "implies geographical attachments that are no longer valid for a convention which embraces and entire nation" (all 50 states).

"Historically and providentially our nation is in the process of breaking down racial, cultural, ethnic, linguistic and social barriers," the resolution said, "and it behooves us who are committed to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ to project a willingness to forsake human traditions—be they names or customs—when ever they present a hindrance to bringing any and all persons into a right relationship with God through Christ."

Registered messengers to the annual meeting of Ohio's Southern Baptists also adopted a record budget of more than \$1.7 million, including about \$1.2 million expected from its

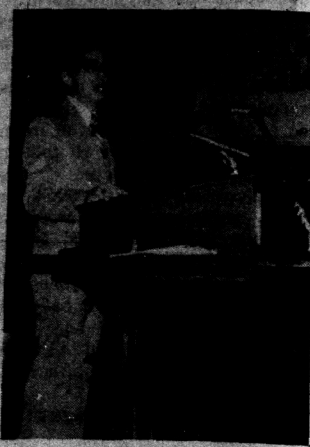
churches through the state Cooperative Program, and elected Paul Payne, pastor of First Baptist Church, Huber Heights, Ohio, as president. Thirty-five and a half percent

of the state Cooperative Program figure was set aside for worldwide missions through the SBC's national Cooperative Program.

A convention resolution cited a "crisis of integrity" and called upon people to espouse integrity as a way of life, both in private and public, and urged all levels of government to restore integrity to public office.



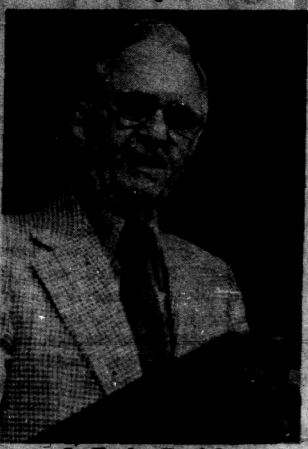
Adrian Rogers
Bellevue Baptist Church
Memphis



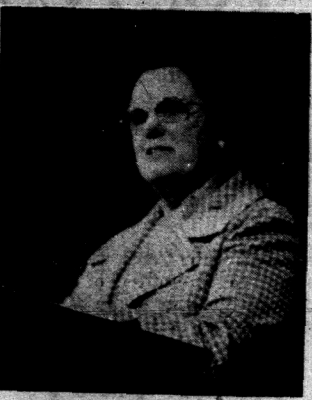
A. Rudolph Fagan
Executive Secretary
Stewardship
Commission
Nashville



Grady Cothen
President
Sunday School Board
Nashville



L. Taylor Daniel
Annex Board
Dallas, Texas



Mrs. R. L. Mathis
President
Woman's Missionary Union
Waco, Texas

Out-Of-State Personalities

Protestant Giving Up 7.7% In Year—Less Than Inflation Rate

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but income than the year before. A major exception to the pattern of fewer members but more money is the Southern Baptist Convention, which in 1973 increased its rolls by 1.9 per cent (to about 12.2 million), while contributions went up 11.1 per cent.

The ten denominations in the main-line sampling were the American Baptist Churches, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Episcopal Church, Lutheran Church in America, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Presbyterian Church, U. S. (Southern), Reformed Church in America, United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church and United Presbyterian Church.

According to the National Council's Commission on Stewardship, which conducted the research on which the tabulations are based, only Protestant denominations were covered because detailed giving reports are not available from the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Churches and such groups as the Christian Scientists.

The new figures cover more than half of the nation's estimated 71 million Protestants.

As in the past, members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church led all others in per capita giving—\$453.19 per member.

Adventists practice tithing and more than 70 per cent of the contributions went to missions.

The report also covered 23 Canadian Churches having 2.7 million members. Total contributions for those groups in 1973 was \$186,731,338, with a per capita of \$71.10. Gifts for congregational expenses amounted to \$150 million, while \$47 million went for benevolences.

Figures on 1973 giving will be included in the next edition of the Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches, edited by Constant H. Jacquet, Jr., for the National Council and published by Abingdon Press, Nashville.



Calvary (Winston)
Calls G. W. Smith

Rev. G. W. Smith is the new pastor of Calvary Church in Winston County at Louisville, having moved there from the pastorate of Temple Church, Petal.

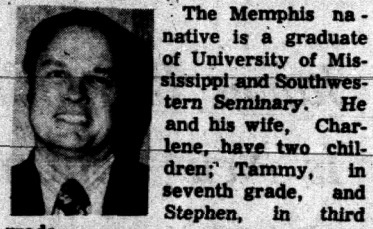
Mr. Smith, a native of Lincoln County, is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He was ordained at his home church, Calvary in Lincoln County. He has pastored five churches: Mount Morgan, Hinds County; Bethel in Lincoln County; Calvary in Pike County; Temple in Jones.

Mrs. Smith, the former Lottie B. Hart, is also a native of Lincoln County. She has attended Mississippi College, New Orleans Seminary, and University of Southern Miss. She worked with the Home Mission Board with rescue missions.

Rev. and Mrs. Smith have two children, Mrs. Kenneth White, Greenwood; and Gregory Smith, a student at New Orleans Seminary, and minister of music and youth at Sandy Hook Church in Marion County. He was ordained October 13 and is married to the former Rebecca Leggett. Rev. and Mrs. Smith have one granddaughter, Kenyon Alecia, 2 1/2.

First, Richton Calls Trexler

Rev. Fred Trexler, Jr. has resigned at South Louisville Church after a pastorate of four and one-half years, to accept the pastorate of First Church, Richton.



The Memphis native is a graduate of University of Mississippi and Southwestern Seminary. He and his wife, Charlene, have two children, Tammy, in seventh grade, and Stephen, in third grade.

Mr. Trexler was president of the Louisville Ministerial Association in 1970-71 and is a member of Rotary International. He has preached in revivals in Mississippi, Alabama, Guatemala, Jamaica and Colombia.

Flag Chapel Calls Pastor

Rev. Sonny Simpson has accepted the call to Flag Chapel Church, Jackson, as pastor.

Mr. Simpson moved to Flag Chapel from Immanuel Church, Magnolia, Arkansas. Arkansas is his native state, and he has pastored in Arkansas, Tennessee, and Mississippi. He finished Southern Baptist College at Walnut Ridge, Arkansas, and attended East Texas Baptist College.

Mr. Simpson is married and father of a son. The family will reside at the church parsonage at 518 Clubview Drive in Jackson.

Violence Awareness Campaign Being Launched

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age that violence is doing to our society. "The real model of Jesus for 2,000 years ago is the one who is the Prince of Peace who came to reconcile people to God and to each other."

The Christian Action Commission is acting as a catalyst for the Baptist associations and sponsoring churches in the campaign. Participating groups announced Tuesday night were (listing association first, then sponsoring churches): Adams Assn.; Bolivar, First Baptist Church, Cleveland;

Chickasaw; Copiah, First Church, Crystal Springs; Convention, First Church, Mount Olive; Greene, First Church, Union Station, Calvary, Alta Woods, Ridgecrest and Van Winkle, all of Jackson; Jeff Davis, Prentiss Church, Prentiss; Jones, Wildwood, Laurel; Lawrence, Monticello Church, Monticello; Lebanon, Temple and First, Hattiesburg; Lee, First, Tupelo; Lincoln, Mt. Moriah, Bogus Chitto; Marion, First Church, Columbia; Neshoba, First, Philadelphia; Newton, First, Newton; Panda, First, Batesville; Pearl River First, Poplarville and First, Pica-

yune; Pike, First, Magnolia; Rankin, First, Brandon; Scott, Forest Church, Forest; Sunflower Association and First, Indianola; Tishomingo, Tishomingo Church; Washington, Calvary and First, Greenville; Wayne, First, Waynesboro; and Yazoo, First, Yazoo City. It is expected that most of the other associations will participate. "Individuals, churches or the association may sponsor the campaign," Dr. Hendley stated. The thrust of the county-wide or church efforts will surface in the months of February and March. A special citation was presented to

Rev. Joe Abrams, soon to retire as associate editor of The Baptist Record, in appreciation of ten years of service to the Commission. Appreciation plaques were presented to three Commission members who have completed six year terms. They are Dr. Graham Hales, Jr., Hattiesburg; Rev. Billy T. Nimmons, Tupelo; and Dr. Fuller B. Saunders, Houston. Rev. Bill Duncan, Picayune, Commission Chairman, presided over the dinner attended by 120 guests of Mr. Marvin Graham, president, Mount Olive Bank, who serves as vice chairman of the Commission.

'A Decade Of Advance' Is Pictured By Kelly

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Think of the contrast. There are currently 870,000 Mississippi Baptists. I confront them affectionately with the original mandate of our Lord: "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: ye shall be witnesses unto me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

In this great passage is a trinity of concepts upon which the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board bases its mission:

- (1) Christ is the focus ("Ye shall be witnesses unto me").
- (2) The world is the scope (Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the utter most part of the earth).
- (3) The Holy Spirit is the power (the Holy Spirit coming upon you).

Somewhat we must temper all our dreams, concepts, programs, and work with these concepts. With God's help and the cooperation of the churches, this we will do. I believe we can have a generation of Baptists of whom history will say, "Christianity was the very breath of their lives. Christ was alive to them. They loved the inspired Word of God—the Bible. They were not handicapped by disabilities and decisions. They were evangelists. They were the majority, and, more than that, they treated their favored position not complacently but responsibly—and fruitfully. They did not believe, as did the "amalgamated theologians," that they commanded Christ, but believed Christ commanded them. To them there was authority in Christ claims."

Such can be said of those of us who work in this decade of advance. We are churches cooperative with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in its frontal attack of the world and opportunities for the future. Our Convention Board, along with its committees, serves as the

skeleton that holds the churches together in the task of world evangelization. The local church is the base of all our work—the primary place where the gospel is proclaimed, where the Bible is taught, where lives are redeemed and changed, where Christian growth is encouraged, where Christians are equipped for witness and ministry in the world, and where the funds for our cooperative ventures depend on the strength of every church in our fellowship; therefore, our role is more than a channel for the fair distribution of all mission funds. Our role is to stand alongside the churches and assist the church in becoming what Christ wants it to be. Cooperative strength depends solely on the combined strength of the individual components.

I believe we now stand at the threshold of the age Joel prophesied when he said: "Your young men shall see visions and your old men dream dreams." The years 1975-1984 will be known as the decade of advance because Baptist churches will fire up other Baptist churches until the gospel covers Mississippi like the waters cover the sea. It will take a lot of dreaming and envisioning to do that, but we can do it if we will pray, plan, and pay.

I Pray
 Pastors, churches, lay people, and staff, I charge you to launch this decade of advance with prayer and undivided effort with prayer to the end. We are all engaged in a life-and-death spiritual struggle with the powers of evil. This kind of warfare can only be fought by prayer.

Prayer played a vital role in the outreach of the early church. The ten days between the Ascension and Pentecost were spent in prayer. Following Pentecost the early disciples "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, . . . and in prayers." (Acts 2:42) Peter caught the greatest vision of his whole life—a vision that changed the course of church history—during a time of



prayer just before dinner. Paul and Barnabas received their call to missionary service during a time of prayer and fasting. Through his entire missionary career Paul prayed long and earnestly for his converts and solicited the prayers of his converts on his own behalf.

The modern missionary movement began with prayer and for a long time was nourished by prayer. Toward the close of the seventeenth century when the protestant churches of Europe settled down into a dead and formal orthodoxy the Lord raised up Jacob Spener who organized cottage prayer meetings. Spencer and his followers were out of step with their age and were dubbed "Pietists" by their enemies, but they kept on praying. Out of their prayerful concern Halle University was founded in 1694 to meet a spiritual need. Halle University soon became the fountainhead of the modern missionary movement.

A student, Count Zingendorf, became the leader of the great Moravian Church with its worldwide missionary enterprise. It all began with the establishment of a round-the-clock prayer watch, seven days a week, by twenty-four Single Brothers and twenty-four Single Sisters. That prayer watch continued without interruption for a hundred years. Little



wonder that the Moravian Church became one of the greatest missionary churches of all time.

We generally think of William Carey as the father of modern missions. But seventy years before Carey's time a prayer chain began that stretched across the Atlantic and back. In 1723 Robert Miller, a Presbyterian minister in England urged prayer for converting the heathen world. The idea spread like a prairie fire, and groups sprang up all over England to pray for the conversion of the heathen world.

That prayer challenge crossed the Atlantic. In 1740 all the Christians of North America were invited to enter into a covenant of prayer for a period of seven years. The following year, Jonathan Edwards responded by calling all believers "for intercessory prayer."

Thirty-seven years later, Edwards' pamphlet was introduced to the churches of England in the Northamptonshire Ministerial Association. As a result, Baptist churches and ministers set aside the first Monday of each month for united intercession for the heathen world. The first visible answer came when in 1792 twelve Baptist ministers met in the back parlor of Widow Wallis to organize a society for the evangelization of the heathen. William Carey became the



society's first missionary. Prayer is the backbone of our missionary enterprise. Everyone knows about William Carey and his monumental work in India, but few know about his invalid sister at home who stood behind his monumental work in India. Hers may have been the greater ministry.

I call Mississippi Baptists to a revival of prayer. We have more knowledge, experience, money, committees and real estate than at any time in our history. But we have lost our dependence upon God.

Human effort and ingenuity have displaced prayer. We are activists. We would sooner work than think, pray than pray. Yet all the while God is trying to tell us that it is not by might nor by power but by his Spirit. (Zechariah 4:6) I call all Mississippi Baptists to a concert of prayer for the next decade.

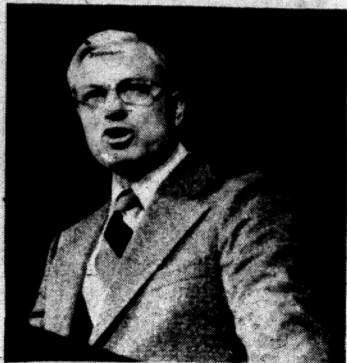
II Plan

When I made my acceptance speech to the call to assume the office of Executive Secretary - Treasurer I said: "I pray to see with fresh eyes. I owe allegiance to no man or to outdated ideas. I intend to be impatient for tomorrow." In the light of this philosophy we are trying to plan. I am aware that the best laid plans do not always work out as we would like, and as each new set of plans are announced we are aware of Murphy's Law which says: "Everything takes longer than it should. Nothing is as easy as it seems. If anything can go wrong, it will go wrong." But plan we must.

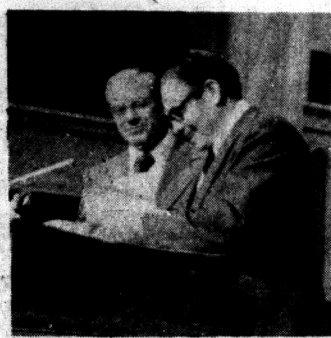
Plans for a decade cannot be developed in a year. In the months ahead plans will be made for the building of the Gulfshore Baptist Assembly and the Man and Boy Camp at Kosciusko. Year round programs for the maximum utilization of these facilities will also be developed. The slowing of the national birthrate, the improvement of health and increased longevity all point up to the fact that there are more and more older people in our society and in our churches. We must find a better way of ministering to the aged. We shall develop a mission manpower pool which will cover a broad range of lay professions and skills to be used in a multitude of volunteer mission projects in our state and around the world. A disaster task force will be manned by volunteers, trained, and equipped to render ever recurring tornados, hurricanes, and floods in our state. We want the unfortunates to know that Mississippi Baptists care enough to minister in the name of Christ.

We shall continue to upgrade plans that will give priority to reaching prospects for an effective Bible teaching program, to the most productive methods of winning them to Christ, to basic training in discipleship, to helping all Baptists break out in songs of praise for God's grace, to informing our people of what God is doing on the mission fields around the world, to promoting a climate in which our youth can more easily hear the call of God, to greater and broader use of

(Continued On Page 5)



Dr. David Grant, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and pastor of Broadmoor, Jackson, delivers the president's address.



Dr. Grant receives a certificate from Dr. Kelly in appreciation for his services as president.



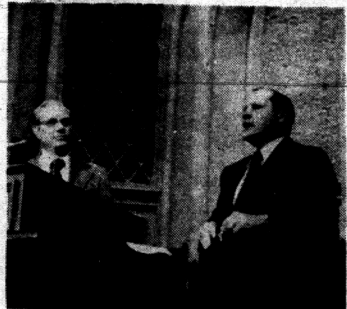
Dr. Grant presides at convention business sessions.



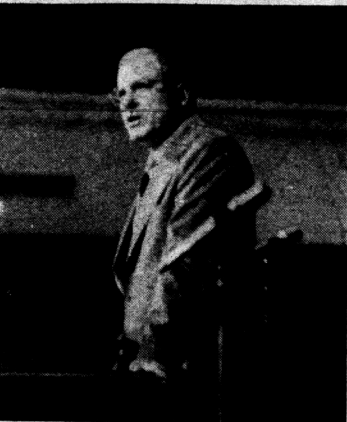
Dr. Grant and Dr. Joe McKeever give full attention to Dr. Grady Cothen's address.



Dr. Grant yields the gavel to the new president, Rev. James Richardson.



Dr. Grant listens as Oliver C. Laddner of First, Magee, Chairman of the Committee on Order of Business, moves that the printed Suggested Order of Business be adopted.

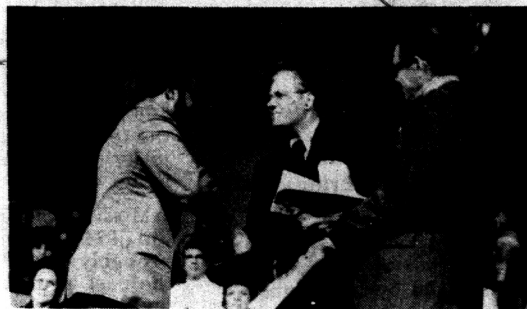


Dr. Grant listens to convention debate.



Dr. Grant recognizes Rev. S. W. Valentine, longtime pastor of Southside, Jackson, who is moving to the pastorate of Calvary Church, Anchorage, Alaska. President Grant read an award presented to Mr. Valentine from Governor William Waller.

The President In Action



Donald W. Johnson of Atlanta, left, represented the American Bible Society, presents copies of Good News for Modern Man to Dr. Grant, center, and Dr. Earl Kelly.



Marilyn Lewis, senior nursing student at M.C. from First Church, Starkville, checking Dr. Grant's blood pressure.

Progress Marks 1974 Convention Of Mississippi Baptists

(Continued from Page 1)
bers of the Convention Board, these believed to be the first in the board's history. Women have, however, served on the boards of other agencies.

Those elected as board members, both members-at-large, are Mrs. Vernon May, Louisville, and Mrs. Charles Tyler, Collins.

Resolutions Adopted
The convention adopted five resolutions, one encouraging action to curb violence, one encouraging Baptists to respond to needs of starving and undernourished people of the world, one expressing opposition to any change in the name of the Southern Baptist Convention, one expressing apprec-

ation to the host church and one paying tribute to President Grant.

The convention adopted a recommendation of the Convention Board in which the affairs of Mississippi Baptist Seminary were separated from those of the Department of Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists of the Convention Board, with the Department to continue to advise and work with the Seminary. The Convention Board will continue (along with the Home Mission Board, by agreement) to make such annual allocations as they desire to the Seminary, students of which come mostly from National Baptist churches in the state. The convention adopted a recom-

mendation from the Convention Board that a special committee of five be named to continue the study of a proposal to build a retirement home at Camp Kittiwake, also at Pass Christian. This committee will be funded to employ professional counseling and report to the 1975 convention.

The convention approved a capital needs allocation for Christian education in the amount of \$1,500,000, to be prorated to the four Convention owned colleges at the rate of \$300,000 per year, beginning in 1976 and continuing through 1980.

The convention adopted the following recommendation from the Convention Board regarding the Cooperative Program and the instructions were effectively carried out:

1. That we instruct our Executive Secretary-Treasurer and Convention President, the Presidents and Administrators of the institutions and agencies, and a representative of their trustees, to sign the Declaration of commitment to the Cooperative Program, representing the Mississippi Baptist State Convention.

2. That major emphasis on the Cooperative Program be made during the annual session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention urging the churches to have a commitment service in their churches during April 1975 and that they urge their members to indicate their support by voting to increase their Cooperative Program budget substantially in the fall of 1975.

3. That Mississippi Baptists attempt

to assume the proportional part of the 150 million dollar SBC goal for the calendar year of 1976. (\$7,830,000).

The report of the Committee on Feasibility of Reassigning the Work of the Board of Ministerial Education was adopted, as follows:

The Board of Ministerial Education in cooperation with the Trustees and Administrators of the respective Schools proceed to take immediate steps leading to transfer of the Real Estate holdings of the Board to the respective Colleges for administration as soon as practicable. This is to be accomplished with the understanding that any properties designated for Ministerial Education, or funds derived therefrom, will be used exclusively for the education of ministerial students. It is to be further understood that any indebtedness on said properties will be assumed by the respective Schools.

Article X of The Plan of Organization and Action of the Mississippi Baptist Convention will be amended, in compliance with Convention procedure for amendments, to conform to the changes the above recommendation will necessitate when adopted by the Convention.

This action by the Convention will free the Board of Ministerial Education of the responsibilities related to Real Estate, and will enable them to continue to assist deserving ministerial students with available funds and spiritual guidance.

The president announced near the close of the convention the committee

on committees for the 1975 session, as follows:

Rev. Joel Haire, West Point; Rev. Marcus Alexander, Flowood; Dr. Norman O'Neal, Clinton; Rev. Odean Puckett, Natchez; Rev. Bobby Walton, Cleveland.

Rev. S. W. Valentine, who has left a long time pastorate at Southside Baptist Church, Jackson, to go to Calvary Baptist Church in Anchorage, Alaska, was recognized by President Grant who also read an award to Mr. Valentine from Gov. William Waller.

James Richardson Of Leland Is New Convention President

(Continued From Page 1)
since he was leaving for Vietnam to teach the Bible study for a Baptist missionaries' retreat. Later, on the same trip, he preached in Thailand, at Calvary Baptist Church in Bangkok. While in Vietnam he visited Missionaries Lewis and Toni Myers. (Mrs. Myers is Mrs. Richardson's sister. Like her sister, Mrs. Richardson has been deeply interested in missions, and was district WMU president for a good many years.)

Your new president has been pastor of First Baptist Church of Leland for 17 years. Concerning that longevity of services he commented with a grin, "We haven't decided yet if they are stuck with me or I am stuck with them!" His only other pastorate before Leland was Knox at Tylertown (a seminary pastorate) and Calvary, West Point, for five years.

James M. Richardson was born at Vardaman, Mississippi, October 14, 1923, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Richardson. His only brother, Carthel lives at Vardaman and his only sister, Lucille Thornton, lives at Aberdeen.

His graduation from Wood Junior College came in the middle of World War II, so he left school to go into the Army. Three years later he entered Mississippi College, where he majored in English — and met Narcissa Alexander. After his marriage to Narcissa at First Baptist Church of Boyle in 1948, he took a job teaching biology and history in the public school at Boyle, his wife's hometown.

Not until two years later, when he was 27, was he called to preach. That year First Church, Magee, asked him to be their youth director. He recalled, "Not many churches then had youth directors, so the church didn't know what my job should include and I didn't know either! I began working with the young people, though, directing their music and other activities." He added, "The Lord used that experience as one of the chief means of showing me that he wanted me to become a preacher. I remember the exact day the Lord called me to preach. It was a cataclysmic experience! Even more than my conversion and baptism at age ten, it stands out in my memory."

"As I look back," he continued, "I am amazed at the way the Lord has used different experiences in my life, to fit them into the whole pattern. Sometimes when you do something, you wonder, 'Why am I supposed to do this now?' Then later the bits and pieces fit together like a puzzle. You can see the Lord's design in what you have done."

Mr. Richardson was ordained to the ministry at Rio Vista Church in New

Orleans in 1952. Since then he has been a pastor, most of that time at Leland.

He and his wife have four children: Jay, who married Vicki Tucker of Brandon, lives in Clinton, works for National Cash Register; Gary, who married Janet Word of Jackson, works with Deposit Guaranty Bank; Ian is a junior at Mississippi College; and Vivien is a senior in high school at Leland. He has one granddaughter — 18-month-old Leigh Anne, daughter of Gary and Janet.

Though he says he doesn't have any special hobbies, he admits that he does play "a little tennis," and do "a little gardening." Also he likes music.

Some people have described your new president as "a gracious gentleman," "friendly," "very fine," "good-natured," "pleasant," "modest." Of himself he says, "I am just plain — a balcony man." But he has proved himself to be a capable leader who works well with people. Optimistically he believes that Mississippi Baptists will meet their new budget for 1975, in spite of inflation and in spite of the fact that it is the highest budget ever yet projected. "I am encouraged," he said, "at the way Mississippi Baptists work together when they see needs that must be met."

"I really was surprised at being elected," he said, "and was humbled. In fact, I was so astounded that I have not yet had time to evaluate the situation or to think about goals, or projects I would like to see accomplished in the convention while I am president. I will be doing that very soon, though. And I can tell you that I believe that the Lord has something in mind for this, too, and we will see his design better as time goes on."

High Court - - -

(Continued from Page 1)
the licensing of radio and television stations and the setting of policy related to broadcasting.

King's Garden owns and operates two radio stations in Edmonds, Wash. In appealing to the Supreme Court, the corporation argued that religious organizations have the legal right to hire only persons of a particular religious persuasion. The argument was based on a 1972 congressional action exempting religious groups from provisions contained in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 related to employment policies.

King's Garden, Inc. also challenged the FCC's authority to require religious organizations to hire persons unsympathetic with their views, claiming that such action violates the free exercise of religion clause of the First Amendment.

Men's Prayer Breakfast Moves

(Continued From Page 1)

Mississippi Governor William Waller is joining the Foreign Mission Board and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in sponsoring the breakfast. Missionaries Charles A. Tope of Kenya, L. Wayne Frederick of the French West Indies, and Lewis I. Myers Jr. of Vietnam will speak.

Each of these men has a Mississippi background. All have been pastors of Mississippi churches, and Myers and Frederick are natives of Mississippi.

Other Foreign Mission Board personnel to be in attendance are Samuel DeBord, secretary of the department of promotion and furlough ministries, and Sam Pittman, associate secretary of the department.

The breakfast was timed to accentuate the 1974 Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions in the Southern Baptist Convention Dec. 1-8 and the annual Lottie Moon Christmas offering for foreign missions, Kelly declared. The nationwide goal for the offering is \$23 million, and the Mississippi goal is \$1.4 million.

The cost of the breakfast has been underwritten and there will be no charge for the tickets, Kelly emphasized. However, definite commitments and reservations must be made, he added.

Paul Harrell, associate in the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, said those men who have signed commitment cards have definite reservations. The deadline for making reservations is 4:30 p.m. Nov. 26 in the Brotherhood office. Only men are invited.

Ford On National Bible Week: Scriptures Source Of Wisdom

NEW YORK (RNS)—President Ford in accepting honorary chairman of the 1974 National Bible Week, expressed high regard for the Scriptures "as a unifying source of wisdom and inspiration."

"Bible reading has been a tradition in my family as long as I can remember," he said. "I firmly believe that one can experience great solace and encouragement from the Bible's timeless and stirring passages."

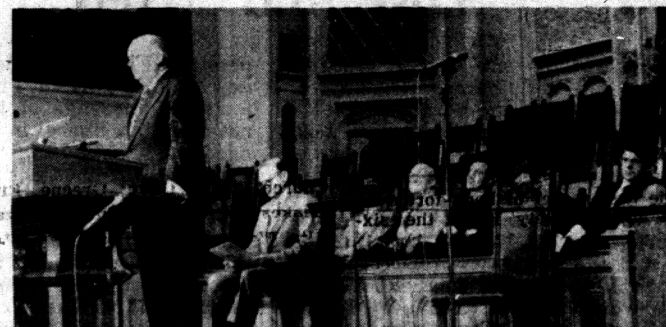
President Ford said his favorite passage is: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5,6)

National Bible Week (Nov. 24-Dec. 1) has been sponsored since 1940 by the Laymen's National Bible Committee, an interreligious organization based in New York. It is scheduled to coincide with Thanksgiving.

Organizations cooperating in the observance are the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, the Jewish Committee for Bible Week, the National Council of Churches, the U.S. Catholic Conference, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), which is cooperating officially for the first time this year.

Sen. Walter F. Mondale (D-Minn) and Rep. Sam Steiger (R-Ariz.), co-chairman of the Congressional Committee for National Bible Week, are planning to introduce a resolution in Congress which will be signed by President Ford, proclaiming officially Nov. 24-Dec. 1 as National Bible Week.

Panel Presentations



Brooks Wester, seated directly behind Lewis Nobles (at the pulpit stand), was moderator for the Wednesday morning panel presentation. Other participants besides Dr. Nobles are seated behind him: E. Harold Fisher, Lowrey Compere, Paul Brown, Ralph Noonkester, and Hardy Denham.



Bill Duncan, standing, was moderator for the Wednesday afternoon panel presentation. Participants seated left to right, were John Alexander, Kermit King, Bryant Cummings, Elmer Howell, Dan Hall, and Ralph Winders.



Frank Gunn, standing, was moderator for the Wednesday evening panel. Participants left to right, seated, were Ed Holmes, Foy Rogers, Marjean Patterson, J. Clark Hensley, Dick Brogan, Roy Collum, and Joe Odle.



Joel Haire, standing, was moderator for the panel presentation Thursday morning. Participants seated left to right were W. R. Roberts, Carey Cox, Paul N. Nunnery, Robert Scates, R. A. McLemore, and Paul Pryor.

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

EDITORIAL

Convention Centers On The Church

The church was at the center of Mississippi Baptist thinking and action in their annual convention last week.

The theme of the program was "The Living Church" and in messages, reports and actions, the church and its work were the consideration.

Sometimes this was the church as an institution, giving its witness and wielding its influence on the world.

At other times there seemed to be the thought of the church as the body of Christ having reference to all of the redeemed, even though this, at the present time, is only a concept or ideal which is to come into actual existence when all of the redeemed are assembled with their Lord in glory.

Usually, however, the focus was upon the New Testament church here and now, a local organized body of baptized believers.

There are almost 1900 Baptist churches cooperating with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and almost 35,000 of them in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Mississippi Baptists assembled in Jackson for their 139th meeting were thinking about those churches and their work, and the place they have in the whole Christian witness.

Preachers preached about the churches and the denominational programs in which they cooperate. Messages were Bible based and Christ centered, and revealed the unifying force these have in Baptist life.

Leaders, boards, commissions and

committees presented plans and programs for augmenting and projecting the work of the churches both on the local field and in the denomination.

Agencies and institutions reported on what they are doing in their witness for Jesus Christ.

From the Convention Board came recommendations for the largest missions budget in the state's history, and other actions which will bring continued advance in the denomination's work. One of these was the restoration of the Gulfshore assembly facility, which was destroyed by Hurricane Camille in 1968. These recommendations were accepted enthusiastically and adopted by the messengers.

The messengers heard Dr. Earl Kelly, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Convention Board, present the vast opportunities confronting the churches and the convention, and challenging them to great new advances in the coming decade.

Leaders from the Southern Baptist Convention revealed how the larger body continues to carry out the will of the churches in an ever-growing nationwide and world-wide witness.

The program was well planned.

Inspiration was at a high level throughout the sessions.

The music was splendid.

The preaching was outstanding.

The reports were encouraging.

The fellowship was unexcelled.

As predicted, no seriously divisive issues arose, although there was some debate and divided vote on a resolution opposing the changing of the name of the Southern Baptist Convention. This, however, was simply an expression of opinion, and did not in any way mar the fellowship. It did reveal that a majority of the messengers oppose any name change.

Mississippi Baptists can look back on the 1974 convention as a good one. It probably should be classed as one of the best in a long series of good meetings.

Great True Stories

Sometimes as we hear a story or an illustration, we are impressed with the thought that this is a great or outstanding experience. Others should hear it.

With that thought in mind we are planning to run a series of such stories during 1975. They probably will be a regular feature over several weeks or months, and even longer if we receive enough of them.

Several such stories already have been chosen, but we are sure that there are many others which we do not know about. If you have had some unusual experience which will make a great story, please send it to us. It needs to be true, and it needs to be experience you have had, or that you know about. Of course, it should be a spiritual experience relating to the church, Christian witness, or some other Christian relationship. It can be the story of a sermon, a soul winning experience, a revival, a prayer experience, or some other.

May we suggest four rules concerning those which are sent in. 1. No submitted article will be returned if it is not used, so please keep a copy. 2. Publication will be at our discretion, since we shall have to judge whether the story should be included in the series. 3. Articles should not be submitted anonymously. If you request, we will withhold your name from publication, but no story submitted without identification of the sender will be used. 4. Do not copy a story out of a book, since we do not wish to deal with copyrights.

We believe that there are many such great stories, which have not been widely told. Why not send your own, and let us consider using it?

We hope to start the new series in January.

Lost And Saved

"Those who do not accept biblical authority are not liberals — they're lost." These were the words of E. V. Hill, a black Baptist pastor from Los Angeles, speaking at one of the sessions of the Congress on World Evangelization in Lugano, Switzerland, last July. The whole thesis of the program of this congress was the lost condition of man and the necessity for salvation through Jesus Christ. That the people of the world are lost and need to be saved, was in the thinking of the more than 3,000 persons gathered there, and was expressed in a declaration which was developed and signed by many of the participants.

This was not a meeting of liberals, and those of that theological persuasion would not have been comfortable in the gathering. Those who are more interested in changing man's conditions in the world, than in changing the heart of the man, would have felt out of place. Liberalism and personal salvation simply do not go together, and we are

persuaded that our fellow Baptist from Los Angeles is right, for if a person rejects the message of the Bible, he is not merely a liberal in his thinking; he needs to be saved.

The liberal does not like the idea of trying to lead people to be "saved." He would rather talk about the "innate goodness of man. We can understand this. When one rejects the Bible as the Word of God, then he naturally rejects the Biblical revelation concerning man.

That "man is lost and needs to be saved" is one of the clearest messages of the Bible. Jesus said, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which is lost." Throughout the New Testament is found that same message. It is the central theme of the Bible. The person who does not accept the Bible as the revealed Word of God, does not, of course, believe that. It follows, that if he does not believe that man is lost, and that salvation is personal and only through the Lord Jesus Christ, he is lost.



More Available Than Ever Before



A Woman's World Reaches Far

Beyond the Ironing Board

Wilda Fancher

Reprinted by request from "The Last Word," Clarion-Ledger, Dec. 24, 1972.

People who get to do fantastically exciting things like writing a column (to you that may seem dull — to a hopeful writer it's as I described it) have to make occasional decisions which are difficult. One I had to make dealt with requests that I write columns on certain subjects or issues or types of people or events. Because I realized that a column could easily become a sounding board for what others think instead of a vehicle for communicating my two cents worth of thought, and seeing little chance of dealing fairly with the requests, my decision was that I would decline, respectfully and regretfully, all requests for specific columns. I have honored that decision. Up until now, that is.

This week a beautiful letter came, saying, after telling me the circumstances of the death of their nineteen-year-old son last spring, "Could you write a column for all of the people who have lost loved ones this year? Our home is sad and our holiday will be lonely."

Death has not walked so close to me that brother, sister, parent, child, or husband joined him as he passed. He has seemed to hover over each of our boys in turn, so I have fought back and struggled against the possibility of death. Only to that fullness of understanding am I able to sympathize with people grieving through the death experience. In all my years as a pastor's wife, I never learned what to say or how to act in the presence of death-grief.

Now I hardly know what to write. If I knew words which could be carressing and tender to reach into your heart like finger tips and massage away the pain which must be a million times worse than muscle cramps, I would write them.

If I knew words which could keep your breath from backing up into your throat when you have to pick up a plate because you forgot and set the table for everyone, I would write them.

If I knew words which would keep the tears from dropping onto your coat when you see someone at a distance who looks like him, I would write them.

If I knew words that could keep everybody from walking or whistling or running or talking like he did, I would write them.

If I knew words which would make it easier for you to swallow his favorite food, or hear his favorite song, or walk into his room, or give away his possessions, I would write them.

But if I knew all these words, and I wrote them, and they did what I said they would do, I would have robbed you, for I would have taken away your memories of him.

Next to live music, a record is the best thing; next to a live person, memories are the best thing. Without the music there could have been no record; with the person there would be no memories. Like music with joyful strains suddenly replaced by haunting melodies and like music with haunting melodies suddenly replaced by joyful strains, your relationship goes on every day.

If James dies before I do, probably the most difficult time of day for me will be the time when I go to the post office and there is no letter from him. He has written to me almost daily when he is away. But I will, for a while, I'm sure, go home and read some of the letters from him that I have saved and remember gratefully the love that prompted those letters.

On this Christmas Day, every ache will be deeper and every pain will be sharper. It would seem totally proper to me that you weep a little while, but not all day. As you weep, it would seem totally proper also to let the joyful strain of faith in Christ well up in your heart and wipe your tears away with poignant happy memories. Bring out a few of the not-so-happy memories, too, for it is

THE BAPTIST FORUM

Church In Northern State Needs Pastor

Dear Joe:

I recently received an inquiry from a church with approximately 200 members in a northern community of 30,000 people with an additional 30,000 at a nearby university that needs a pastor. The budgeted salary is satisfactory.

If you know of any pastor who might be interested in this extremely challenging situation please have him contact me for further information.

Owen Cooper
Yazoo City, MS 39194

California Church Is Seeking Assistant Pastor

Dear Sir: We are looking for a man as assistant pastor in charge of youth ministry. This includes all phases of the youth work. He would be a full time man on our staff.

We would like for you to put an article or whatever is needed for the people to read in your weekly state paper. We have exhausted every lead thus far.

If anyone is interested please send a resume. Thank you so much for this service.
Sid Peterson
Stine Road Baptist Church
3001 Stine Road
Bakersfield, California 93309

Humorous Religious Anecdotes Sought

Dear Sir:

I am seeking to learn of true unpublished incidents about religion, for a book I am compiling (clean and ridiculing no religion). I need humorous religious anecdotes, personal or otherwise, experiences from the past or the present. Happenings may be in the church or out. Cute sayings of children and short inspirational pieces are desired also.

For all accepted, the sender's name and address will be printed, if the sender desires.

Last year I made a similar request through the Baptist Record and I have received some excellent replies, and would love to see more.

Mrs. Florence Bell
405 Broadmoor Drive
Jackson, MS 39206

Promises are like crying babies in church — they should be carried out immediately.

We won't continue having the horn of plenty if we keep blowing it.

unrealistic to remember someone as having been perfect.

When your heart has settled and you feel a miracle has been worked there, breathe a prayer of thanks to God, for it is a miracle, indeed — this Christ of Christmas, Whose "peace on earth" includes your heart, even on this first Christmas with one missing. — Box 9151, Jackson, MS. 39206.

The Baptist Record

515 Mississippi Street
Jackson, Miss. 39201

Joe T. Odle Editor
Joe Abrams Associate Editor
Anne McWilliams Editorial Associate
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WHEN THEY CRUCIFIED OUR LORD by Bruce E. Coltharp (Broadman, \$1.50, paper, 77 pp.) Believing that the men on his base needed to face up to the realities of the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, Chaplain Coltharp developed imaginary dialogues with some of the characters involved. Caiaphas, Peter, Pilate, Judas, Simon of Cyrene, and Dismas — each one told the reporter his side of the story. And the alman responded with fresh appreciation of the awful reality of Christ's death and the full reality of Christ's death and the marvel of his resurrected life. In this book are the imaginary interviews with the six men involved with Christ and his cross.

BANGKOK, 75, THE BEGINNING OR END OF WORLD MISSION by Peter Beyerhans (Zondervan, 192 pp., paper, \$3.95) What happened in Bangkok in 1973 that could affect the world mission program, at least as many denominations are concerned? A World Mission Conference was held there under the auspices of the World Council of Churches. The purpose was to consider the future of world missions, but the conference evidently got turned off on what is meant by salvation, so the meeting was of little significance as far as evangelical Christianity is concerned, except that evangelicals learned that if there is a witness for Christ to bring men to an experience of salvation from sin, the World Council of Churches is not going to give it. This conference revealed that that organization is leading its membership toward a witness to salvation for society. . . . a socio-political gospel, not a Biblical one. "Sensitivity Training" techniques were used to bring the delegates to the thinking of WCC leadership, and the author says he had to get away from the meeting to clearly analyze what had happened. In this book he reveals that the WCC program is one that would bring an end to Biblical world missions, rather than its extension. Southern Baptists are not a part of the World Council of Churches, and meetings like this guarantee that they never will be.

THE PSALMS FOR MODERN MAN (American Bible Society, \$11 pp.) The book of Psalms, in the Today's English Version translation, attractively bound in hard cover,

HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE by Ralph Herring, Frank Staggs and Others (Broadman, 194 pp., \$5.95) The late Dr. Ralph A. Herring, planned this book as a primary extension course. He outlined it, made assignments to writers, and did preliminary editing. Chapters deal with what the Bible is, how it is to be understood and interpreted, and how it communicates all are presented. It is a scholarly book on the text, the canon, the unity, and the message of the Word.

CHRISTMAS, AN AMERICAN ANNUAL OF CHRISTIAN LITERATURE AND ART, Volume 44, edited by Randolph E. Hagan (Angsburg Publishing House, 63 pp., \$2.50 paper, \$4.50 deluxe cloth edition) From the full-color early Americana scene on the cover to the end-page colophon, this holiday publication captures the sparkle and reverence of the season with a distinctive blend of pleasant family reading, art reproductions, nostalgia, seasonal poetry and music. Articles in this year's annual are: The Christmas Story; Home for Christmas; Christmas in the City; The Gentle Lights of Christmas; Historic Organs of Europe; Isaac Watts, Hymodist; First Great American Composer; and The Art of Feeding Winter Birds. The book also includes five Christmas poems, Hildegard Scendrey's beautiful calligraphy of words and music, and art inserts suitable for framing. It would make an ideal Christmas gift.

A PIECE OF THE MOON IS MISSING by James L. Johnson (A. J. Holman, 224 pp., \$4.95) Readers of Mr. Johnson's previous Code Name Sebastian novels, will be excited to hear that another has been released. This new one, set in the Arctic near the North Pole, blends all the elements of a great suspense adventure with a stirring affirmation of individual faith and courage. Sebastian is unique among spy heroes — a man of conviction and spiritual integrity witnessing for truth amid intrigue and deception. Jim Johnson is an exceptionally good writer and here he is at his very best.

GOD'S PROMISE FOR TODAY by Benjamin E. DeJong (Baker, paper, \$1.45) Selected Scripture for each day of the year, plus a devotional thought to accompany each Scripture.

TULLUS AND THE VANDALS OF THE NORTH (David C. Cook Publishing Co., 112 pp., \$1.25) A book for children, in comic book format. The hero, Tullus, defines death to bring Christ's message to ancient Crete and the fierce Vandals of the North. The Word is his sword.

EXPLORE edited by Janice M. Corbett (Judson Press, paper, 142 pp., \$5.95) "Explore" this book for resources for Junior Highs in the church. Its five sections contain individual program ideas, project plans, and other suggestions for work with youth.

DISCOVER YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT AND USE IT by Rick Yohn (Tyndale House, paper, \$1.95, 153 pp.) An examination of the relevancy and necessity of spiritual gifts for Christians today. The gifts mentioned in the New Testament are viewed in terms of Biblical meaning and contemporary situations.

THROUGH IT ALL by Andrae Crouch with Nina Ball (Word Books, \$5.95, 148 pp.) Andrae Crouch and the Disciples are well known in the world of Christian gospel music. Mr. Crouch tells in this book how that all through his life, since he received Jesus at the age of nine, he has sought to employ his talent in God's service.

SUCCESSFUL PARTIES AND HOW TO GIVE THEM by Marjorie Wackerbarth and Lillian S. Graham (Baker, paper, 224 pp., \$2.95) There are children's party plans here for all occasions — for the very young, for small boys only, for girls only, for thirteeners, etc. None of the parties calls for elaborate or expensive equipment. Other useful chapters include fun for the back yard, fun while motoring, fun for the "little lonesome," fun for the sick child, and fun at a picnic. The authors are a mother-daughter team.

GAMES AND PARTIES FOR ALL OCCASIONS by James W. Kemmerer and Eva May Brickett (Baker, paper, 224 pp., \$2.95) Looking for new and lively games for your next party? They are here. There are some updated versions of old favorites. Some games border on calisthenics; others are quiet pencil and paper games. Both indoor and outdoor games are included. Boys will like the tricks and magic game section. Suggested themes for parties are included, too.

Decade Of Advance

(Continued From Page 2)

the gifts of the Spirit which our people possess, and to raising the level of living at the local level and through the Cooperative program.

Biblical and contemporary evangelism will be at the heart of all we do. We shall endeavor to keep our evangelism balanced, Biblical, and healthy. It must honor God, be Christ-centered, respect the integrity of the individuals conscience, meet the claims of the gospel and address the total needs of the whole man. New methods of witness will be discovered, but we must not substitute these for the worthy and proven techniques of one to one and mass evangelism to reach the people of our time.

During the decade of advance we must continue a bold witness to the language groups in our state. New missionary personnel will be required if we are to reach the Indian, Chinese, Mexican and other language groups that need the gospel. There are presently 181,528 people who speak languages other than English in our state. In an effort to help Mississippi Baptists meet this challenge a full length color film on Language Missions in Mississippi will be released in the summer of 1975.

Perhaps half of the Baptist population of the state belong to one of the nine National Baptist Conventions in Mississippi. Since before the War Between the States Mississippi Baptists have worked with these Christians in an instructor - pupil relationship. The work was started as a way of helping slaves and people of color obtain religious instruction. Theologically these people are more like us than any other group in the state. Organizationally they are fragmented and weak.

This year we launched the beginning of what we pray will be a helpful strategy in working with National Baptists. We are moving from a paternalistic to a fraternalistic relationship. Your Executive Secretary-Treasurer has initiated a series of continuous dialogues with Southwide and Mississippi Negro leaders to develop strategy for winning all Mississippians for Christ. A new day is dawning in our understanding to each other. We have agreed that our strategy

Virginia L. Bell Dies At 82: Widow Of Presbyterian Leader

MONTREAT, N. C. (RNS) — Memorial services were held at Gaither Chapel here for Mrs. Virginia L. Bell, former medical missionary and widow of Dr. L. Nelson Bell, one of the most prominent clergymen in the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. (Southern).

Her husband, a leading evangelical editor and writer and moderator of the 112th (1972-73) General Assembly, died in 1973. He was instrumental in founding Christianity Today magazine and an independent newsweekly now known as The Presbyterian Journal.

Mrs. Bell's daughter Ruth is the wife of evangelist Billy Graham. Her son, the Rev. B. Clayton Bell, is pastor of one of the largest Presbyterian Churches in the U. S., Highland Presbyterian Church in Dallas.

Celebration Day Sunday School Attendance 200,142

Reported Tuesday Morning by Sunday School Department

will not call for National Baptists winning Southern Baptists nor, on the other hand, for Southern Baptists to win National Baptists. We are in full agreement that if the lost Black masses are to be won to Christ, they must be won by trained Black Baptists. There will probably continue to be some white churches across the state that will win a few Blacks. But as a Convention we can render our most effective help by praying for National Baptist leaders and by helping lift the image of the Black leader in the Black community.

As a part of the new strategy the Mississippi Baptist Seminary is being given an independent status, with a bi-racial Board of trustees. We shall continue to cooperate with the National Baptists and Home Mission Board in the financial support of this much needed mission educational enterprise.

During the decade of advance it is our dream to develop a climate in which National Baptists and Mississippi Baptists will truly acknowledge each other as allies on Mission with Christ.

The Convention Board is presently assuming a larger role in student ministries. There are 26,000 Baptist students on college campuses where we are performing a student ministry. By an orderly process your Board is moving toward the full employment of all student directors by 1979. We believe this bold action will do much to develop Christ centered, church related, mission conscious leaders for tomorrow.

Statisticians inform us that Mississippi is on the front edge of a population explosion. We can expect population migration toward the coastal area, the major urbanized centers, and the areas offering a combination of moderate climate, abundant resources, jobs and a variety of leisure time activities.

During past years the rural church has consistently fed the urban and inter-city church. The decade of advance will be a decade of urbanism. Though there will be pockets of isolation where a rural ethos predominates, with instant communication and modern transportation the areas that remain geographically rural church we must develop bold plans to share Christ in the urban and metropolitan centers. We must dare to leave the warm cultural womb of evangelical piety that has marked the Bible belt and knock heads with men in a plural society who do not share our evangelical presupposition.

Should the projection of population explosion occur, the decade of advance should give birth to 100 new missions and cooperating churches. I challenge Mississippi Baptists to set a goal of 2,000 churches by 1985.

Land costs in growth areas are escalating at astronomical rates. It is happening everywhere. One of our young churches paid \$9,000 for five acres seventeen years ago. Recently it became necessary to purchase 2.8 acres of bare land for much needed expansion — the cost \$163,000. Land that can be purchased today for \$5,000 an acre will cost \$10,000 within twenty-four months. The future of the denomination and its mission enterprise depends on starting new work. Three things are needed to start strong, vigorous churches where prospects exist. Land, buildings, and trained full-time workers are a necessity to grow great churches. I call on Mississippi Baptists to give priority to providing these needs through the decade of advance. We must help local groups buy choice church sites, provide mobile chapels until a first building unit can be built, and work through sponsoring churches to supplement honorable salaries for a trained full-time worker on a phase-out basis as the mission becomes a church.

Thursday, November 21, 1974

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Mr. and Mrs. Jorma Lempinen were visitors at the convention. She is the former Brenda Sullivan from Pontotoc, and he is a native of Finland. They have been appointed as missionaries in Africa sent by the European Baptist Federation.

Convention Scenes



NEWCOMERS—New pastors, staff members, directors of student work, superintendents of missions and chaplains are lined up across the front of the auditorium of First Church, Jackson, as Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Convention Board, introduces them to the convention. In the photo at left



he is welcoming Julius Thompson, Kelly's successor as pastor of Ridgecrest Church, Jackson. In the right photo he is introducing the host pastor, Frank Polard, right, and First Church, Jackson, minister of evangelism, Charles Baker.



The Minutes—Hard at work keeping up with the proceedings of the convention are the recording secretary, Horace Kerr, left, a Jackson layman, and Tommy Baddley, pastor of First Church, Brandon, the associate recording secretary.



APPRECIATION—A plaque expressing appreciation for 25 years of service to the Convention Board is presented to Joe Abrams, right, who retires as associate editor of The Baptist Record on Dec. 31. Mrs. Abrams stands with her husband. Making the presentation is Joe Odle, editor of The Baptist Record.



INSPIRATION—The final inspiration for departure was a feature on Christ's model prayer and included "The Lord's Prayer" sung as a solo by Marilyn Mims of Collins. The four persons above spoke the words in different languages. They are left to right, James Johnson, a maintenance staff at First Church, Jackson; Raul Garcia, a native of Cuba now on the maintenance staff at the Baptist Building; Miss Edwina Robinson, retired executive secretary of the Mississippi WMU; and Claire Tan, a native of Taiwan, now a graduate student at Mississippi College.



MISSIONS INTERESTS—Mrs. R. L. Mathis of Waco, Texas, right, president of the SBC Woman's Missionary Union who spoke at the Mississippi Baptist Convention, chats with missionary personalities from Mississippi. At left is Miss Marjean Patterson, Mississippi WMU executive secretary, and second from left is Miss Edwina Robinson, who retired from the executive secretary post in 1971 after 38 years there. Second from right is Lewis I. Myers Jr., Mississippi native who is a missionary in Vietnam. Miss Robinson spends 12 weeks each year as interim WMU executive secretary for New York Southern Baptists.

ch. Statistics verify the validity of such action. A study of thirteen churches that have been started in fast growth areas and whose average life is thirteen years now have a total membership of 15,832, or an average membership of 1,217. The original land investment was \$75,000, and these thirteen churches have already given \$2,610,216 to missions. This represents a mission return of 3,480% in thirteen years. More significant than the monetary return is the baptisms reported by these churches. The thirteen churches have already baptized 7,511 people. Had it not been for the Sunday school enrollment of these churches, Mississippi would have suffered an enormous decrease in Sunday School enrollment. If these

statistics don't make your bell ring, your clapper is broken.

The most important resource that Mississippi Baptists have is the ministers and other professional staff members of the local churches. Many of these people and-or their wives are "hurting" and need help. Some are lonely. Some are facing severe financial problems. Some have personality and-or emotional problems. Some need the opportunity for "continuing education." Some need the benefits of short-term training in specific tasks. Something creative and substantial and of continuing nature needs to be done in this area. Plans are being made to provide small retreat conferences with well qualified Christian people from the fields of medicine, finance, law, and theological education to meet these needs.

III Day

Our prayers and plans can become a reality if we are willing to pay the costs. The decade of advance must be begun by prayer, strengthened by commitment, enlarged by sacrificial giving, and accompanied by the offering of our young people as bearers of the imperishable message to perishing people around the globe. Let Mississippi Baptists go forward in their missionary giving, not thinking in

terms of investments that are safe from the world's standpoint but rather in terms of heaven's values, where one soul is worth the whole world. It must all begin with the churches. We must give more, and in turn channel more through the Cooperative Program. Missions is not something the church can add on when it can afford to. Dr. A. H. Strong said: "What are our churches for but to make missionaries; what is education for but to train them; what is money for but to send them; what is life itself for but to fulfill the purpose of missions, the enthroning of Jesus Christ in the hearts of men?" The decade of advance will call for a never before kind of sacrifice, but Mississippi Baptists have learned from history that no task is too great for people willing to follow God's leadership.

I close with the words of an old Black preacher. He finished his sermon with the following rally cry:

"Let's sing up,
preach up,
pray up,
and pay up,
but never give up,
let up,
back up,
or shut up.
Until the cause of Christ is every church is built up."

'Miracle Day' Set For Raymond Road, Jackson, Nov. 24

"Miracle Day" with a goal of 300 in Sunday School is set for November 24, at the Raymond Road Baptist Church, corner of North Siwell and Raymond Road in Jackson.

The Pastor, James Whittington, challenged the church to reach this goal at a recent Sunday School leadership banquet.

Special features for the day include, "The Singing Engineer", James W. Carraway from Shreveport, Louisiana, presenting music in evangelism at the 11:00 AM Worship Service and at 7:00 PM.

Also as a special feature for the children, Rev. Richard Barth from Pochontas will demonstrate his expertise in magic with a presentation of the Gospel through Magic at the Children's Church Service at 11:00 a. m.

The pastor and people extend a cordial invitation to everyone to come to "Miracle Day" at Raymond Road Baptist Church.

Pearson Church, Pearl, Severely Damaged By Fire

By Tom Hamby Of The Pearl Press

A fire which raced through the attic of Pearson Baptist Church forced the congregation to hold its worship services in the new family life center, but didn't spoil an effort for a record attendance.

The fire last Friday morning shortly after midnight ravaged the educational portion of the main church building, destroying the roof, and destroyed the choir loft, baptistry and pulpit area of the sanctuary.

Total damage was estimated at between \$100,000 and \$200,000. Water and smoke damage to the sanctuary made it unusable.

Attendance Sunday morning was 516 for Sunday School, only 19 short

of the 535 targeted for Celebration Sunday at Pearson, and represented the first time in the history of the church that attendance had topped 500.

Volunteers worked all day Friday and Saturday, managing to clear out all the ashes and debris, and arranging the gymnasium portion of the family life center for church services. The gym will serve as the sanctuary for the several months estimated for completion of the renovation.

The fire was brought under control by Pearl and Jackson fire departments, with the assistance of the Floodwood department. Firefighting efforts were hampered the lack of water, with the only reachable hydrant being

several hundred feet away.

Rev. Arnold Norsworthy, pastor, said that "We lost our church building through fire, but through the experiences, the living church is being built stronger." He said the services Sunday were "evidence that our people are coming back stronger, having broken all previous records."

He also expressed thanks to all the "unnamed and unnumbered folks who rendered their assistance and offered their sympathy."

The fire was believed to have been started in the electrical wiring. Pearl volunteer firemen went inside the building and extinguished the blaze in the sanctuary, saving it from destruction.



Pearl Volunteer Firemen battle a fire which raced early Friday morning through the education building section of Pearson Baptist Church in Pearl. (Photo by Tom Hamby of The Pearl Press.)

Lake Como To Mark 84th Anniversary

Lake Como Church will celebrate its 84th anniversary with homecoming on November 24, beginning with Sunday School at 10 a.m. Rev. James Shumate, a former pastor, will be guest speaker for the morning worship service, and music will be under direction of Rev. John R. McBride, another former pastor. Mrs. James Shumate will present special music.

A harvest dinner will be served at noon, followed with a special message delivered by Rev. Donnie Stewart, former pastor, and special music by the church youth choir under direction of Mrs. Cliff Ellis.

All former pastors, members, and friends are invited. All former pastors will be given time to speak. Rev. Cliff Ellis is the present pastor.

First, Byram, To Dedicate Additions

First Church of Byram will have dedication services of recent additions and restored areas at 5 p.m. on Sunday, November 24. A reception and tour of the new facilities will follow. Dr. David Grant, pastor of Broadmoor, Jackson, right, above, and outgoing president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, will be the inspirational speaker. The church has been instrumental in the organization of several churches in the south Jackson area. The original beginning of the church is not known but dates on grave markers in the cemetery and reports from members who have been in the church better than fifty years indicate the church has been ministering for Christ since before the turn of the century. Rev. Orvel E. Hooker, left, above, current pastor, will act as moderator. All former pastors, members, and friends are invited.

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We recognize practical facts and necessities of life which, in 1974, have created practical, financial difficulties for your family. We ask you, for little children who depend upon you for their very existence, to remember these difficulties which are multiplied and magnified in our large group, since we must purchase every product and every service basic to home life, including the salaries of substitute parents.

On Thanksgiving Day, thousands of Mississippians will gather those with whom they share love and honor around the bounty of a holiday table, amid the security of family love. As you contemplate these blessings of goodness and plenty, which will characterize so many of our private homes on Thanksgiving Day, will you consider sharing the bounty of your home and table with little children at The Village? Your gift, mailed to them at: HOLIDAY FUND, The Baptist Children's Village, Box 11308, Jackson, Mississippi, 39213, will help insure their food needs throughout the expensive year ahead.

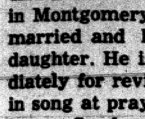
Please know that we include all of the compassionate, generous friends of our children in our own earnest prayer of thanksgiving.

Respectfully,

PAUL N. NUNNERY
Superintendent

Names In The News

Paul Ganey, formerly minister of music in Mississippi, has entered the field of full-time music evangelism. Mr. Ganey attended Clark College, William Carey College and Mobile College. He has served churches in Mississippi and Alabama and is currently living in Montgomery, Alabama. He is married and has one child, a daughter. He is available immediately for revivals, for sermons in song at prayer, Sunday morning or Sunday evening services. He says about his new ministry, "I plan to minister in revivals, and in other services on a love offering basis without regard to the size of the churches. My desire is to sing of my Redeemer, thus sharing Him and His great love with the lost, and I venture in faith." Mr. Ganey can be contacted at 3534 Dairrada Parkway, Montgomery, Alabama or through the Highland Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery.

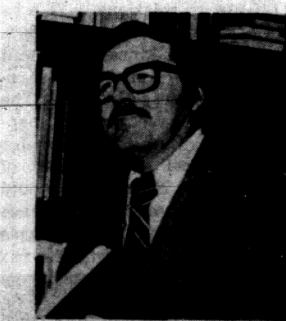


Keesler AFB, Miss., has announced the graduation of Second Lieutenant Lloyd C. Fernandez, Jr., William Carey College alumnus, of Silsbee, Texas, from the U.S. Air Force communications systems officer course conducted by the Air Training Command. Lt. Fernandez was trained in the supervision and management of radio, teletype and cryptographic communications operations. He is being assigned to Richards-Gebaur AFB, Mo., for duty with a unit of the Air Force Communications Service. The lieutenant received his B.S. degree in business administration last year from William Carey College.

Warren Langworthy of Pascagoula (left) was awarded the Elkes National Foundation Scholarship at Mississippi College for the 1974-75 school year. He looks over details of the scholarship with Dr. John Legg, professor of chemistry and pre-med advisor. Langworthy is a pre-med major. (M.C. Photo by Bob Rampy)



Charlotte Ellzey (right) of Ellisville was named the recipient of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation Scholarship and the R. B. Thomas Scholarship at Mississippi College for the 1974-75 school year. She looks over details of the scholarships with Dr. Wendell Deer, chairman of the department of Mathematics, Miss Ellzey's major area of study. (M.C. Photo by Bob Rampy)



The Mississippi College department of religious education has recently acquired a new assistant professor J. Phillip Stanberry. Stanberry received his education from Oklahoma Baptist University, Midwestern Seminary and Southwestern Seminary. His studies consisted mainly of religious education with emphasis in marriage and family counseling. For the past 16 years, he has held various church capacities. His early work was with youth, then as a minister of music. Later opportunity allowed him to enjoy his true interest as a counselor of marriage and family life. Mr. Stanberry and his wife, a kindergarten teacher, have one daughter, presently a freshman music major at Baylor University. Next semester, Mr. Stanberry will be teaching a course entitled "The Church and Community."

Rev. J. Harold Stephens, pastor of First Baptist Church, Fairborn, Ohio, since 1970, and the members of that congregation dedicated a new \$600,000 sanctuary on October 13. Mr. Stephens was formerly pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg. A full page of the October 24 Ohio Baptist Messenger was given to news of the event.

Rev. Ken Hunsberger, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. K. Hunsberger of Memphis, is the new minister of music at Fairhaven church, Olive Branch. A junior at Memphis State University, he has been a member of LaBelle Haven Church, Memphis, for 15 years and has served there as assistant to the minister of music and as director of a bell choir. In 1973 he was licensed into the ministry by the LaBelle Haven Church. He is 22. Mr. Hunsberger has been a participant in the Quad-State Chorus; West Tennessee State Chorus; and the All-State Chorus of Tennessee. Also he has worked with World Wide Pictures, Inc. of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Crusade. Rev. Jackie Cooke is the Fairhaven pastor.



Mrs. Irene Taylor, nurse at Baptist Hospital in Jackson for 28 years, was guest of honor at a reception at the hospital on November 8. She is now 65 and is retiring but will continue to work on private duty from time to time. In the thirties she trained as a student nurse at Walley Hospital, a privately owned medical clinic in Jackson. She joined the Baptist Hospital staff in 1948. Member of Central Presbyterian Church, she lives with her husband, Hugh, at 1823 First Avenue in Jackson.

H. G. Atwood, J. C. Davis, Amos Parker, and Layelle Ward have been elected as deacons at First Church, Summit and were ordained in a special service, Sunday, November 17. Rev. Larry Fields is pastor.

Mike Gullede was recently ordained as a deacon by Petal Harvey Church, with Rev. Jerry Henderson presiding at the service. The message was brought by Rev. Pete Evans, pastor of First New Albany and father of Mrs. Gullede. The opening prayer was offered by Preston Blackwell, chairman of the deacons, and Rev. Garland McInnis offered the ordination prayer. Mr. Gullede is a football - basketball coach at Petal High School. Mrs. Gullede is pianist at Petal - Harvey Church.

Tommy Ray Bufkin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bufkin was ordained into the gospel ministry by Shiloh Church September 15. Mr. Bufkin was honored with a reception after the ceremony. He is pastor of the Beech Grove Baptist Church in southeastern Claiborne County.

Six persons at New Prospect Church, Tishomingo County, have recently received pins for perfect Sunday School attendance of five years and above. They were Ronnie Gamble, Sunday School Director, eight years; Donna Williams, ten years; Vickie Hannon, eight years; Mike Hannon, five years; Johnny Hannon, five years; Rev. Stanley Magill, pastor, seven years. Twelve others received pins for less than five years perfect attendance.

Mancil Essel has been promoted to field services specialist in the Sunday School department of the Baptist Sunday School Board. His responsibility will include serving the Sunday School department as a consultant in training personnel in communication skills, conference-leading techniques and in the use of visual materials.

C. E. (Chuck) Wilson has accepted the position as minister of education at Walnut Street Church, Louisville, Ky. He goes there from the Green Valley Church, Birmingham, Alabama.

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God's Concern For All Men

By William J. Fallis
Jonah

For three months our study theme has been "The Living God Seeks Man" as demonstrated in the Old Testament. We began with a lesson on "God's Purpose for Man," and then traced the story of God's covenant with Abraham and the chosen people. We have seen how the nation developed, how it was blessed by God, and how it suffered because of its disobedience. In this concluding lesson of the Old Testament survey we find Jonah, the reluctant prophet, carrying God's message of judgment and offer of forgiveness to a foreign nation. Although Jonah did not understand it, the writer of the book realized that Israel's God was interested in people

other than Israel and that he expected Israel to be his messenger.

The Lesson Explained
JONAH RESENTS GOD'S GRACE
(vv. 1-3)

Although Jonah is mentioned in 2 Kings 14:25, most students of the Old Testament feel that the book about him was written after the Exile. Antagonism between the Jews and other nations had been aggravated by that experience. A sense of superiority and a narrow nationalism had developed among some of the people. Because the Assyrians had devastated the Northern Kingdom in 721 B. C. and carried off thousands of the people, Jews had no love for Nineveh, the Assyrian capital. Thus, Jonah was shocked when the Lord told him to go to Nineveh and condemn its evil living. Instead, he had tried to escape God's call by going to Tarshish. Then followed the remarkable storm, fish, and rescue experience. When the Lord called him the sec-

ond time, Jonah did go to the foreign city, and the people heard him and repented.

But instead of rejoicing, Jonah was resentful. He was really "angry," and he showed his feelings in his prayer. Fearing this might happen, he said, was the real reason he had headed for Tarshish. When a prophet preached doom, Jonah felt that the Lord ought to back him up and let the doom fall. The reputation of a prophet was in danger if the Lord was going to let sinful people repent and not be punished. He practically quoted Exodus 34:6 in describing God in verse 2. He may have meant that while this was the way the Lord had treated Israel, he need not treat other nations in that spirit. Jonah felt indignant and discredited when he begged God to take his life.

THE SHADE PLANT AND THE WORM (vv. 4-8)

God's reply to Jonah's complaint sounds like a father trying to

calm an upset teen-ager. The prophet had no time to respond as he went out to find a vantage point to await the fate of the city. To shield himself from the hot sun, he made a booth. To supplement the drying leaves of its boughs, God caused a plant (perhaps a gourd vine) to grow along the structure for shade. But the next day a worm "attacked the plant." When it withered, a hot wind blew in from across the desert; that combined with the midday sun was almost more than Jonah could bear. Again, he wished he could die.

Jonah was engulfed with self-pity. What a sad story was his! First, he had tried to run away from God's assignment. When he was thrown into the stormy sea, God saved him from death. When he finally obeyed the Lord by preaching in a heathen city, the people — and even their king — prayer for mercy, and God granted it. Almost everything Jonah did seemed to turn out against him. Now, the worm had killed the vine, and Jonah was beset by sun and wind. It would be better to die than to face the reality of God's concern for all men.

WHICH IS MORE VALUABLE?
(vv. 9-11)

When God asked whether it was right for Jonah to be so angry, he said yes and he was "angry enough to die." Then the Lord tried to help him see how absurd he was acting. Jonah was worked up about the death of a single plant, but he was not in-

terested in the repentant population of Nineveh. A prophet of God could not afford to be that narrow and selfish. On the other hand, sparing the city was in accord with the character of God. Some say the 120,000 persons were the children. But another interpretation might be that the whole population had no experiential knowledge of God that would help decide between right and wrong. In either case, Nineveh was a great city, and the Lord was glad to respond to its penitence.

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7
Thursday, November 21, 1974

Waxhaw Church
Calls Pastor

Waxhaw has called Rev. B. W. Bridges as pastor. Mr. Bridges attended Clarke College and Mississippi College. He was the former pastor of Mt. Olive in Tippah County.

Better to build a straight child than to punish a crooked adult.

Sunday School Lesson: Life and Work

The Manner Of Giving

By Bill Duncan
I Corinthians 16:1-4;
II Corinthians 8:10-24

Recently, John, our sixth grade son, got a paper route. Much to our dismay he has about 90 customers. Therefore, either my wife or I have had to carry him in the car to the furthest points. So now it has turned into a family project.

When it came time to collect, John really called it his route. He counted every dollar ten times. Much to our surprise, everyone paid and he made pretty good.

Then came time to settle up. The paper company had to be paid. John had volunteered to buy some gas for the car since it was used. He said, "Daddy, how much will it cost to fill up the car with gas?" I knew that was a loaded question. "Well, son," I said, "yesterday when we stopped at the gas station, it cost \$10.00." You should have seen him melt. He could just see his profit being eaten up. So I said, "Son, I am not so much interested in your buying a large amount of gas as I am seeing to it that you learn how to give to the Lord's work out of your money."

My mind went back to the time that my Dad and I had a serious talk about giving. So John and I sat down and talked about how his mother and I give a proportional amount of money each week.

Then he said, "How much do you think I should give?" as if he thought he was trapped.

I then explained that the plan suggested from God's Word was at least 10%. He figured quickly, and said, "Oh, that's better, I thought I might have to give \$5.00 a week. Then like a mature person he said, "But what if I wanted to give to the building fund or Lottie Moon or some of the other offerings?"

"John, we believe the tithe comes first. We give the tithe to the church and then if we have an interest in the other needs that are so important, we give in addition to that."

As he walked away to fill out his church offering envelope I breathed a prayer of thanksgiving for a plan tried and proven to give him a real blessing. I only wanted his manner of giving to be accepted.

Did you read in the paper recently about the man who wanted to sue the church? He had been told, "so he blessed. So he decided to tithe and

said," that if he tithed he would be he had done so far sometime but he claimed that he had not been blessed so he wanted his money back or he was going to sue the church. One of the men in the church gave him back the \$800.00 he demanded. Why was he not blessed?

Men are told in both the Old and New Testament to "bring their tithes into the storehouse" and to give of their substance with full assurance that they will be blessed. However, if they give grudgingly or because they feel outward constraint, they miss the blessing. The response must come from the heart.

There was a need for a relief offering to care for the poverty-stricken believers who lived in Jerusalem. Yet, Paul had refrained from issuing orders to the Corinthians regarding the collection. He thought that the example of Christ should have been enough impetus. But even Christian people need ideas on how to carry out their good intentions, so Paul chose to offer advice about the manner of giving.

The first idea presented by Paul concerning the usefulness of good intentions which do not issue in corresponding actions. The Corinthians were the first to feel the appeal of offering. A feeling that remains only a feeling is a frustrated experience. Paul urges that "the readiness in desiring... may be matched by completing it." A fine desire should be turned into a fine action.

The second idea is that the measure of giving is based on what a man has. A man is not expected to give what he has not. Jesus praised the widow because she gave all her living. Many of us stand condemned for what we retain after we give. It is not a question of one group being drained of resources to make it easy for others. The idea that is most important is "proportion." People who have much should give to those who have less. There may come a time when this will be reversed and the donors become the receivers.

Paul had a practical character. He wanted the offering handled so that there would be no criticism. There may have been some who would have charged Paul with misuse of the funds. Therefore, Titus and an unnamed brother were appointed by Paul and the churches to carry the offering along with Paul to Jerusalem. These men had a heart of concern for the churches and the poor, just like Paul. The companionship in

the work of God is important because the witness is strengthened in any endeavor where there is a strong fellowship among the leaders.

The three men traveling to Jerusalem with an offering had many desires. Paul wanted the church at Jerusalem to see what fine men there were among the Gentile churches. The project was intended to bring glory to the Lord. They also wanted to show the good will of the churches toward those who had first been used to spread Christianity.

Paul did not want any trouble about money to come up. With a group of men above reproach and authorized by the churches to bear the money, no suspicion could arise. Paul was a big enough man to do the little things and the practical things supremely well.

Back of the gift is a motive: the desire to help people. But we also have a method and a measure to follow. The method is simply: "Upon the first day of the week." It is not to be sporadic or occasional but faithfully. The measure is simple: "Our guide is according to our material prosperity."

In every age of the church, Christians have been called upon for a faithful exercise of stewardship. Out of human prosperity there must come gratitude which issues into giving. Christians must be willing to assist destitute persons. This is more than mere sentiment. It must be action to meet human needs. Christian stewardship, when regularly applied to our life, will save us from pride and selfishness. Ralph Cushman has said, "The unsecured property and riches in the hands of professing Christians is the greatest hindrance to militant Christianity."

The proper management of the gifts that are gathered is very important. Honesty in administration is just as much a part of stewardship as honesty in giving. Money gifts are to be gathered by the church, handled wisely, and disbursed responsibly. The early churches' management of funds provides an example for every church.

In a sense money is a "coined personality." Put it to the service of God; it means the giving of ourselves.

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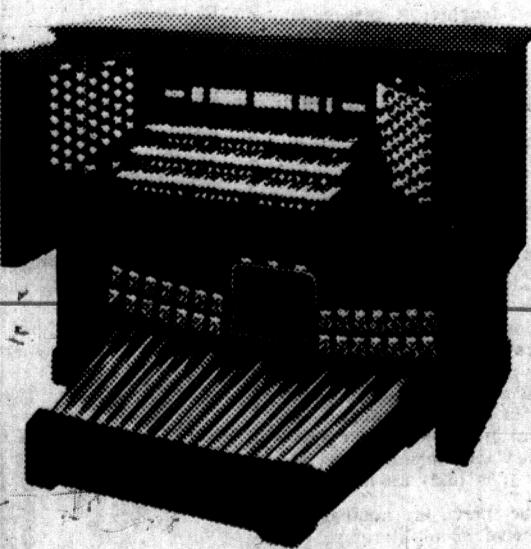
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MC BSU Sponsors Student "Families"

CLINTON — Most students leave their families completely behind when they go to college. Mississippi College students just get substitutes.

Under a program sponsored by the Baptist Student Union, interested students are placed in a "family" group with a mother, father and plenty of sisters and brothers. The "parents" are students who are willing to take the responsibility of trying to mold a group of students into a "family" which cares and prays for each other.

The family groups came about through an effort to find a more personal, involving form of the share groups formerly used to involve students in a particular type of Bible study, prayer time, or topical study.

Now the experiences depend on the needs, personality, and desires of the family group. One week may bring a picnic, another a Bible Study or a family attendance at a church service.

The families normally meet on Tuesday nights after the regular BSU meeting, then arrange other get-togethers as they desire. One group has also been formed for students whose night classes prevent them from coming to the regular meetings. So far 27 families with about 12 members each have been formed.

Family groups aren't the only times for informal fellowship sponsored by the BSU. The weekly meetings on Tuesday nights have sing-alongs, entertainment and a speaker, skit, or other thought provoking program.

Retreats offer chances to get together while getting away from the old school routine. This semester a study retreat and a creative worship retreat have been held. Each had plenty of recreation along with the work and both met with a good response.

Two BSU choirs give students a chance to constructively pursue one of their favorite pastimes — making a joyful noise! The Vesper Choir, directed by Tanner Riley, minister of music at the First Baptist Church in Clinton, sings at the church every

other Sunday night. On free weekends trips are often made to sing in other churches throughout the state.

The Hour of Power (HOP) Choir, directed by a qualified student, sings at the First Baptist Church for the Wednesday night services. They also do concerts and programs at other churches in the state.

Both choirs offer students a spiritual lift through the Tuesday afternoon practices and the time spent singing and traveling together.

Twice a week students can start the day with a group devotional. After breakfasting together, a student leads the short worship time.

In all these activities the emphasis is on the growth of the individual. The families, retreats, choirs, meetings and devotions center around personal experiences and seek to help each participant mature.

The annual Mississippi College High School Student Involvement Day on Nov. 22 will offer an opportunity to meet students who care about you individually. We would like to have you as our guest for special event.



Longview (Pontotoc) Dedicates Pastorium

Longview Church (Pontotoc County) had a dedication service and open house of the new pastor's home, top photo, on October 27. The new house is of brick veneer with three bedrooms, two baths, den and kitchen area, living room, pastor's study, utility room, storage room, patio, carport and concrete drive. A dedication sermon was brought by the pastor, Rev. George Johnson at the 11 a.m. service. Open House was held from 2 until 4 p.m. Building Committee, bottom photo, 1 to r: George Johnson, pastor, Horace Crane, Earl Russell, Oleta Baggett, Mary Caldwell, Verlon Park, Chairman. (Not pictured is Reider Stell.)



Oak Hill Presents Gift To Pastor

Floyd Moody, chairman of deacons, Oak Hill Church, Poplarville, congratulates the pastor, Rev. Chester Estes, Jr. on his first anniversary as pastor of Oak Hill, Sunday, November 3. The church presented Mr. Estes with a gift certificate for a new suit at Apple's Ltd., an exclusive clothing store in Poplarville. Front row, 1 to r: Ronnie Cottingham, minister of music-youth, Mr. Moody, and Pastor Estes. Interested church members look on. Mr. Estes has been in the pastorate for 19 years.

A smile is the whisper of a laugh.

Devotional

"A Day To Give Thanks"

By Rev. D. J. Benson, pastor, West Laurel Church

True thanksgiving is the voluntary expression of heartfelt gratitude for benefits received. Thanksgiving is peculiarly personal and no one can offer for us our word of thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is in no way a payment for the benefit received; it is rather a gracious acknowledgment of the fact that the one who has received the benefit is indebted to the giver.

The Scriptures give explicit direction for the giving of thanks. When Christ is observed, we see an unending practice of thanks for the "unspeakable gift" and the victory over the grave secured by the resurrection. We are to always give God thanks and for all things rather than the giving of thanks sometime for some things. Often we are heard to complain when we should be saying, "Thank you, Lord." Daniel gave thanks to God in the face of the sentence of death, and Jonah gave thanks from the depths of the sea.

Ingratitude is a sin and it was predicted to be one of the sins characteristic of the last days. Isn't our failure to give thanks one of our common sins of today? It is probable that there is true sincerity on the part of many unsaved who try to be thankful for temporal benefits; but their utter failure to appreciate the gift of God's Son leaves them most unthankful in His sight.

The giving of thanks is a wonderful check and balance upon the life of God's child. For if it is to give God thanks for everything, then he must be careful to order his walk and conduct to insure that his thanksgiving be for those things that are according to the will of God lest he be found a hypocrite. How could one thank God for having willfully stolen the tenth, or for intemperance, or some overt breaking of God's law? How could one thank God for cancer lengthed to his habit of smoking? Some one has said, "For whatever we can't thank God for in our lives, we should get out of our lives." Can one thank God for his doubts or for failing to trust God? So the giving of thanks will surely help us to so live in God's will that we can give Him thanks for all things.

Yes, this is the season for thanksgiving and all of us should go aside in some quiet place and search our lives and give thanks. Isn't it a joy to say, "Thank you my Father, for sending Jesus to be my Lord and Saviour. Thank you, Lord, for my place in your eternal Kingdom."

Revival Dates

Broadmoor, Jackson: Jesus Celebration (youth - led revival); Nov. 24-27; 7:30 p.m.; A time to enjoy (celebrate) life in Christ; Buddy Mathis, evangelist; Drew Thigpen, singer; Dr. David Grant, pastor.

TRINITY Church, Biloxi: Stewardship Emphasis; November 17 - 24; Dr. Bobby May, Church Work Consultant, New Orleans Seminary, preaching; services Friday and Saturday nights, 7:30, and Sunday morning at 11, these three services to conclude a week of personal dedication and prayer; The Olivette Singers of Olivet Church, Gulfport, featured singers on Friday and Saturday.

REVIVAL RESULTS

East Philadelphia Church: Oct. 27-Nov. 3; 10 for baptism; 7 by letter, one surrendering to music ministry; one surrendering to preach; several rededications; Evangelist E. C. Chron from Dallas; Rev. Olyn Roberts, pastor.



Lawyer Presents Library To MC

Fountain Dawson (left), Greenville attorney, has donated the majority of his law library and much of his law office furniture, to Mississippi College for use in its School of Law. He presents papers on the gift to Shelton Hand, attorney for the college. Dawson has retired from the practice of law after 20 years as an attorney in Greenville. (M.C. Photo by Norman H. Gough)



Macedonia Noteburning

Macedonia Church (Simpson) recently held a special ceremony to burn the note on their pastorium, a year in advance of its due date. Photo shows members present for the service. Rev. Howard McLemore is pastor.



Rev. and Mrs. Joe Abrams in front of the Baptist Record booth.

Booths And Exhibits



Enjoying fellowship at the WMU booth are Robert Hamblin, Mrs. Robert Smira, Frances Shaw, and L. E. Green.



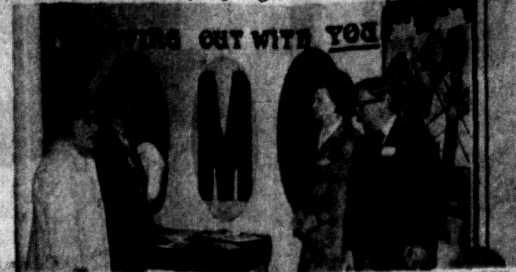
At the Evangelism Booth are William Smith of First, Nettleton, left, and Ellis Richardson of Mars Hill.



Examining the American Bible Society exhibit are Estus Mason of First, Crystal Springs, and D. D. Satterwhite of Bay Springs.



In front of the Baptist Record booth are Henry Hight, Grace Church, Vicksburg; Troy Land, Fellowship, Mendenhall; and Everett Martin, Ridgeland Church.



Blue Mountain College booth — Left to right are Mike Miller, Newton; Mrs. James Street, Newton; Mrs. Dick Guyton and Dick Guyton of Blue Mountain.



Orvel Hooker, pastor of First Church, Byram, looks at the Cooperative Missions Department's exhibit.

Off The Record

A chronic car thief was in court for stealing again. "Why did you take the car?" the judge asked. "Your Honor," he said, "it was parked in front of the cemetery. I thought the owner had died."

Figures Don't Lie
The old-timer was being interviewed on his birthday.

"To what do you attribute the fact that you have lived to be 89 years of age?" asked the reporter.

The old man quickly shot back: "Primarily because I was born in 1894."

One Man's Opinion

Somehow, I get the idea from liberals that most things right are wrong, whereas most things left are right.

Interpreter Wanted

The pastor wanted to make some much-needed improvements. His first suggestion was to purchase a chandelier, but there was much opposition from the congregation. Finally, he asked one of the most vocal opponents of the idea why he opposed purchasing a chandelier.

"Well," said the man, "first no one can spell it, so how can we order it. Second, one one can play it if we get it. And, third, what we really need is more light."

The people it's easiest to see through are those who make spectacles of themselves.

Rare Treat

During World War II the late film comedian Joe E. Brown and his troupe, who had been entertaining the American soldiers in China rushing from camp to camp, arrived back at their quarters famished.

After being served hamburgers, Brown told the cook: "Those were the finest hamburgers I've ever tasted."

Came the cook's reply: "I'm glad you liked them, Mr. Brown. Over here we make them out of mules."

—Ralph Land

Basic Nutrition

After repeatedly emphasizing the nutritional importance of carbohydrates, proteins and fats, the teacher upon conclusion of her lesson asked the class: "Can anyone name the three types of foods necessary for bodily health?"

Complete silence ensued until one girl raised her hand and blurted out: "Breakfast, lunch and dinner."

Ralph Land

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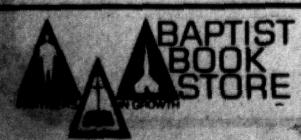


—Walter M. Smith

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Rutledge Receives Alaska-Sized Turnip

ATLANTA (BP) — Arthur Rutledge, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board chief executive, is a Texan who naturally is hard to impress. But he shook his head in disbelief here when he received a gift from Darby Moore, Miss Alaska.

Miss Moore, daughter of missionary pastor Roy Moore of Redoubt Baptist Church, Kenai Alaska, sent Rutledge a 16 1/2 pound turnip. John Allen of the board's church extension department presented it at the agency's November meeting here.

New Number Announced, Literature Service

NASHVILLE — In order to expand the capacity of receiving telephone calls from Southern Baptist churches placing literature orders, the materials services department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board has obtained a rotating number from South Central Bell telephone company. The new telephone number, effective Nov. 1, is (615) 254-1892.

"Due to the increasing number of calls we receive about literature orders from our churches, it was necessary for us to obtain the rotating telephone number. With the five direct lines this rotating number will create, we can better serve our customers," said H. S. Simpson, manager of the board's materials services department.